

# Byron L. Dorgan

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**North Dakota's Manufacturing Extension Partnership  
receives \$200,000 economic shot in the arm:**

## **DORGAN ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING FOR MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) announced Wednesday that the North Dakota Department of Economic Development & Finance will receive a \$200,583 grant from the United States Department of Commerce to fund the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program.

"The Manufacturing Extension Partnership makes it possible for the smallest and most rural firms to tap into the expertise and knowledge of the country's best manufacturing specialists and researchers," said Dorgan, the ranking member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Manufacturing & Competitiveness.

"With this money, North Dakota manufacturers can access the latest technology and business practices available today giving them the competitive edge needed to succeed and profit in today's changing economy."

In 1993, Dorgan created a North Dakota technology development task force to foster and grow the state's manufacturing industry. One year later, through Dorgan's work with the Commerce Department, the task force received a grant to establish North Dakota's MEP center. Since, more than 200 North Dakota manufacturers have worked with MEP to modernize their facilities and innovate their manufacturing operations.

Dorgan said the program is like the Agricultural Extension program that puts the latest farm research from our nation's universities into the hands of farmers and ranchers. "By connecting manufacturers directly to researchers, you provide them with the tools needed to survive in the global marketplace."

MEP works with small and medium-sized manufacturers in all 50 states through its over 400 locations. The Commerce Department estimates more than 62,000 firms have worked with MEP since the program was created in 1989.

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